

# State Bar of California, Office of Governmental Affairs

## *The Sacramento Scene*

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### **MORE BILLS!**

As of February 28, 2002, over 2217 pieces of legislation have been introduced for the 2001-02 Legislative Session. In a break from tradition, the Assembly has permitted members who requested an extension to introduce bills after the Friday, February 22, deadline. Hence, over 220 bills were introduced in the Assembly on Monday, February 25.

In all, 1738 pieces of legislation – over 78% of the total for the year -- were introduced in the 10 days up to and including Monday, February 25. From this point on, bill introductions should be limited to committee bills (bills jointly authored by a majority of the members of a standing committee of the Legislature), urgency measures, constitutional amendments, and resolutions, none of which are subject to deadlines under the Legislature's rules.

### **KEY LEGISLATIVE DATES**

Here are four key legislative deadlines pertaining to the bills before the Legislature this year.

- April 26 – This is the last day for policy committees to hear and report house of origin *fiscal* bills (those requiring referral to the Appropriations Committee in either house).
- May 10 -- This is the last day for policy committees to hear and report house of origin *non-fiscal* bills (i.e., everything else). In other words, all Senate bills introduced in 2002 must pass their respective Senate policy committees by May 10.
- May 31 – This is the last day to pass bills out of the house of origin. This means that all Assembly bills introduced this year must pass the Assembly by May 31.

- June 28 – This is the last day for policy committees to meet and pass any bill from the other house.

Note, however, that all three of these deadlines can be waived by 2/3 vote of the house considering the bills in question.

### **PRIMARY ELECTION**

With the primary election this year being held on Tuesday, March 5, it will be very quiet in the Capitol on Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday will prove to be a very interesting day around the Capitol as members, staff, and lobbyists review election results. As of Today, no one is predicting a large turnout of the electorate.

The following are non-partisan sites providing information to voters:

- <http://www.calvoter.org> – The California Voter Federation's web site is home to the California Online Voter Guide, a nonpartisan clearinghouse of election information about state and federal contests.
- <http://www.smartvoter.org> -- The League of Women Voters of California's web site, where voters can access a personalized voter guide featuring each race and contest on their ballot.
- <http://voterguide.ss.ca.gov> -- Official California Voter Information Guide, published by the Secretary of State.
- <http://cal-access.ss.ca.gov> -- Campaign finance site maintained by the Secretary of State, where voters can "follow the money" contributed to the various candidates for statewide office and ballot propositions.
- <http://www.easyvoter.org> -- The Easy Reading Voter Guide, produced by the League of Women Voters and the California State Library and published in print and online in multiple languages.